

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY & ACTION PLAN 2023-26

<b>Date of amendment</b>	<b>Author of amendment</b>	<b>Brief detail of Amendment</b>
1.4.18	Toby Smith	Final draft submitted to ACE
5.6.18	Toby Smith	Amendment of two typos in Governance section of Action Plan
29.11.18	David Morgan	Annual Review. Updated references to 'ISAN' and 'Skype'
31.01.20	Hannah Hartley	Annual Review. Policy statement re-written and Action Plan reviewed to introduce more SMART targets.
07.02.20	Hannah Hartley	Incorporating feedback from Board environmental champions.
25.01.22	Hannah Hartley	2-year review. Update to cover the NPO extension year 2022-23 and incorporate changes to working practice following the emergence of Covid-19.
29.06.23	Anais Biaux	Annual review. Update to cover next NPO period (2023-26). Policy Statement and Action Plan reviewed and aligned with ACE Investment Principles and Action Plan.

## **Environmental Policy Statement**

The climate crisis poses a real threat to the longevity of Without Walls' work and its ability to deliver its mission to reach and inspire audiences across the country. Without Walls recognises that to mitigate this risk it must forefront environmental responsibility across its work and collaborate with festivals and artists to identify methods of creating outdoor arts that are low carbon and low waste and contribute to a more sustainable society. This will give it the best chance to be able to continue presenting innovative outdoor arts for many years to come.

Without Walls is committed to working actively to reduce the direct negative environmental impacts of its activities and understanding, measuring, improving, and communicating its environmental performance, ensuring compliance with environmental legislation.

As a network of festivals, organisations and artists, Without Walls needs to work together with and in support of partners to make the changes that are needed, exert influence, and share its actions and commitment to environmental responsibility to its stakeholders and the wider sector.

## **Business overview**

Without Walls is a national network of festivals and organisations dedicated to raising the profile of the UK outdoor arts sector, promoting artistic excellence, and supporting innovative new work for the benefit of artists and audiences.

Without Walls brings together artists, promoters, and commissioners to make high-quality multi-arts outdoor shows - from the intimate to the epic - that tour to festivals across the UK and beyond. The network nurtures talent and skills by researching, developing, commissioning, and touring new work, enhancing the growth of the sector, and reaching large audiences, many new to the arts.

Without Walls' **vision** for 2023-2026 is:

*To raise the bar of UK outdoor arts so it is recognised for innovation and wonder across the UK and overseas.*

The **mission** for the same period is:

*To promote excellence in outdoor arts through the creation of inspirational new work of the highest quality by UK artists and to tour this work, from the intimate to the epic, to audiences across the country.*

## **Impact assessment**

Identifying and understanding the impact of Without Walls' business activity is the first step in planning action to reduce any negative environmental outcomes as far as practicable.

Without Walls operates from an ethical cooperative workspace in Hulme, Manchester. Environmental design was a priority in the original development of the building which benefits from good insulation, efficient heating provided by a biomass boiler, low-E glass, grass roofs, ethically sourced materials, and recycling points. A range of environmental targets for the building are constantly monitored, including CO2 emissions, energy use and waste management.

Without Walls embraces good practices in energy-saving (switching off hardware at the end of each working day, maintaining equipment etc) and the management and reduction of waste materials (recycling procedures,

internal printing protocols to reduce paper and ink consumption, and the prioritisation of digital over paper-based working).

As a national project with over 35 partners, **business travel** is a major consideration, and is the biggest contributor to the carbon impacts of the management of the network. Following the rapid transition to flexible working practices and remote meetings, the network aims to maintain a minimum of 50% of all meetings and activities delivered online. This is aligned with broader digital and access strategies that support an increase in digital distribution, remote meetings and webinar-based training.

Without Walls maintains and regularly reviews a transport and expense policy that applies both to its staff when carrying out in-person events and Without Walls' Board and partners, seeking to reduce unnecessary travel and favouring public transport / low-carbon travel where practicable. Flexibility in working hours and the timing of meetings, events and activities is being considered to best support this.

In its **financial and procurement procedures** Without Walls favours environmentally responsible choices where practicable. A sustainable financial and procurement policy will be established to guide document these decisions. Those with purchasing responsibility will be required to comply with these guidelines, for example seeking alternatives to purchasing new materials to reduce unnecessary waste; purchasing from suppliers local to the activity being delivered; eliminating single use; favouring plant-based catering and demonstrating a preference to work with suppliers which demonstrate environmental policies that complement the network's values.

Broader responsibility sits with the individual organisations that make up the network, with several already taking steps to explore and implement a range of ideas to reduce the carbon footprints of their own activity, across areas including the production of public-facing events, festivals, and touring shows. Many partners have established policies, plans and broader approaches to environmental responsibility in place.

Without Walls is aware of its contribution to the impacts generated by partners' activities through investing in the creation, touring and presentation of new outdoor work. Festival partners and artists/companies are being supported to forefront environmental responsibility across the work they deliver as part of their relationship with Without Walls, with requirements placed on them to acknowledge and subscribe to Without Walls' environmental commitments.

## **Commitments**

Over the period 2023-26 Without Walls makes a commitment to:

## **Skills Development**

- Develop a set of tools and resources focused on carbon reduction that is specific to outdoor arts and suitable for different levels of engagement. These resources will be made available to WW staff, Board and festival partners all year round.
- Deliver the Without Walls Green Gathering, an annual event for festivals, artists, producers, production managers and other industry professionals to connect, share knowledge and examples of best practice, and feel inspired and empowered to take positive and proactive steps to address the climate emergency.
- Provide opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, information sharing and creative approaches to sustainability with partners and artists.

## **People and Representation**

- Further develop the remit of the Environmental Responsibility Action Group (ERAG), reporting recommendations to the full Board and ensuring engagement from the management team.
- All supported artists have access to expert advice, training and recorded online resources and are enabled to embed environmental responsibility into the creation and touring of their work, raising their level of ambition.
- Continue to build existing relationships with industry experts in the UK and internationally to support and inform strategic activity and training.

## **Planning**

- Develop a robust Environmental Policy and Action Plan informed by current data and research that defines ambitions for 2023-26 and sets realistic benchmarks to measure future progress.
- Demonstrate active leadership and advocacy by continuing to engage with and contribute to the development of wider industry and government policy agenda.
- Data & research is translated into practical application in partner festival contexts through the creation and sharing of resources, toolkits & best practice forefronting environmental responsibility.

## **Tools and Monitoring**

- Continue to meet essential reporting requirements, and expand data through encouraging and supporting partner festivals to collect environmental data.
- Prepare Carbon reduction pathway with realistic actions and timescale is established and monitored to achieve a systematic reduction of emissions year on year with residual emissions offset.
- Encourage partner festivals to adopt the Vision 2025 Green Events Code of Practice as a requirement of network membership.

## **Monitoring and review**

In 2021 Without Walls formed the Environmental Responsibility Action Group (ERAG) which takes the lead on defining and monitoring the organisation's commitment to environmental responsibility..

Responsibility for monitoring this Environmental Policy and accompanying Action Plan lies ultimately with the Without Walls Board of Directors, to which the ERAG regularly reports.

Implementing the Action Plan, setting and monitoring of targets, and reporting on progress is led by the Without Walls management team. Both policy and plan will be reviewed by the Board of Directors every two years, or whenever there is a significant change in working practices.

## **Communications and reporting**

Inductions for new Without Walls staff and Board Members will include reference to this policy and their responsibilities in relation to it and the documents will be made available to them in full. Formal and informal training opportunities and meetings addressing environmental issues will be offered to Without Walls staff, festival partners and Board members to enable them to discharge their roles and responsibilities effectively. To encourage an organisational culture of shared responsibility, environmental responsibility is included as a fixed agenda item on Without Walls Board and management team meetings, and as a small staff team the action plan acknowledges that most actions will require shared input and resources to achieve success.

Without Walls is committed to communicating information about its environmental performance internally and externally and will make this policy available on its website, along with any other progress reports detailing the actions undertaken by the network.

To meet the requirements of Arts Council England's funding conditions in 2023-26, Without Walls will report annually through Julie's Bicycle's Creative Climate Tools in two key areas as follows:

- the **administrative function** - reporting specifically on energy and water consumption, waste and recycling.
- a range of in person **events** planned across each year - reporting specifically on business travel and accommodation.

Without Walls will also upload an up-to-date Environmental Sustainability Policy and Action Plan to the Creative Climate Tools platform on an annual basis.

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN 2023-24</b>				
<p>The Environmental Action Plan which follows identifies achievable actions to help Without Walls deliver against the commitments set out in this policy and reduce the impacts of its activity as far as reasonably practicable, in line with Without Walls' Investment Principles Plan and Action Plan 2023-24.</p> <p>The plan sets out SMARTIE (Strategic, Measurable, Ambitious, Realistic, Time-bound, Inclusive, Equitable) objectives and will be monitored by the Without Walls Environmental Responsibility Action Group and Without Walls Management Team on quarterly basis and progress reviewed by the Board annually.</p>				
<b>3-YEAR AMBITION</b>		<b>12-MONTH PRIORITIES</b>		
<p>Without Walls is recognised as a key advocate for environmental responsibility. It collaborates with festivals and artists to innovate and create outdoor arts that are low carbon, low waste and contribute to a more sustainable society. Learning is shared widely to benefit the sector.</p>		<p>Map out the partners learning needs and develop a set of tools and resources to be made available across all levels of the network. Prepare a carbon reduction strategy and timeline for Without Walls operations informed by research and data. Appoint Sustainability Advisor to support the planning and delivery of the activity.</p>		
<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>HOW SUCCESS WILL BE MEASURED</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
<b>SKILLS DEVELOPMENT</b>				
<p>(1a) Develop a set of tools and resources focused on carbon reduction that is specific to outdoor arts festivals and suitable for different levels of engagement. These resources will be made available to WW staff, Board and festival partners all year round.</p> <p><b>Target:</b> Partner festivals have access to a set of tools and resources that is relevant and suited to their needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Carbon Literacy training completed by all WW staff.</li> <li>- Map out partners training and development needs, as well as existing training materials and resources available externally.</li> <li>- Provide a set of recommendations for training and development needs across the network.</li> <li>- Design and develop a set of tools and resources for partner festivals that will grow and expand over the 2023-26 period.</li> </ul>	<p>WW staff certified Carbon Literate</p> <p>Festivals and training evaluation forms</p> <p>ERAG and management team better informed about training needs across the network and priorities for subsequent years.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- June: CL training completed by WW staff</li> <li>- Sep-Dec: Mapping exercise across partners</li> <li>- Feb-Mar: Training session for partners</li> </ul>	<p>WW Head of Festival Networks, WW Sustainability Advisor</p>

<p>(1b) Continue to support and resource the Green Production Lab project established in 2021 as an initiative that supports capacity building for the sector and innovation across outdoor arts production.</p> <p><b>Target:</b> Develop the Green Production Lab into a larger annual gathering for festivals, artists, producers, production managers and other industry professionals to connect, share knowledge and examples of best practice, and feel inspired and empowered to take positive and proactive steps to address the climate emergency.</p> <p>Suggested change of name to reflect new format: Without Walls Green Gathering (TBD)</p>	<p>- Plan and deliver the Without Walls Green Gathering, an annual one-day event at 101 Outdoor Arts, to coincide with Vision 2025 Sustainability Conference at the Showman Show.</p>	<p>Attendance log, Participants Feedback Form</p>	<p>Annual event - October 2023</p>	<p>WW Head of Festival Networks, WW Sustainability Advisor</p>
<p>(1c) Provide opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, information sharing and creative approaches to sustainability with partners and artists.</p>	<p>- Deliver at least one online partner drop-in session focused on sustainability each year.  - Commission at least two WW Talks focused on sustainability each year.  - Environmental Responsibility to be one of the main topics as part of the WW Festival Summit (delivered every other year).</p>	<p>Training records, data captured through evaluations</p>	<p>Ongoing  May: Drop-in session</p>	<p>WW Head of Festival Networks</p>
<b>PEOPLE &amp; REPRESENTATION</b>				
<p>(2a) Further develop the remit of the Environmental Responsibility Action Group, reporting recommendations to</p>	<p>- Update the ERAG Terms of Reference 2023-26.</p>	<p>Meeting notes</p>	<p>Quarterly meetings: July 2023</p>	<p>WW Head of Festival Networks, ERAG</p>

<p>the Board and ensuring engagement with the management team.</p> <p><b>Target:</b> Members to actively engage in and contribute to the planning and monitoring of the network's Environmental Responsibility activity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Invite new AD/TNP/CDN partners to join the Action Group.</li> <li>- Consider inviting external parties (invited expert / advocate/ consultant / artist) to further the group's work.</li> <li>- Review the format of the meetings to include more time for provocations and debate, providing more opportunities for Members to share reflections and input into plans.</li> </ul>		<p>October 2023 January 2024 May 2024</p>	
<p>(2b) All supported artists have access to expert advice, training and recorded online resources and are enabled to embed environmental responsibility into the creation and touring of their work, raising their level of ambition.</p> <p><b>Target:</b> All supported artists to consider ways of improving the environmental sustainability of their productions and reduce the potential impacts of the creation and touring of the project.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Share WW's commitment to Environmental Responsibility, training materials and other available resources to supported artists as part of briefing meetings, formal and informal sessions, and other communications.</li> <li>- WW Sustainability Advisor to deliver 1-to-1 consultations with all Blueprint &amp; Commissioned Artists.</li> <li>- Deliver 2 x training sessions on environmental responsibility with Blueprint &amp; Commissioned Artists each year.</li> </ul>	<p>Artists Evaluation Forms (Creation and Touring &amp; Blueprint)</p>	<p>Jul: Appoint WW Sustainability Advisor</p> <p>Sep: Enviro session with 2023 Blueprint artists</p> <p>Dec: Enviro session &amp; 1-to-1s with 2024 commissioned artists</p>	<p>WW Head of Festival Networks, WW Sustainability Advisor, WW Artists Leads</p>
<p>(2c) Build existing relationships with industry experts in the UK and internationally to support and inform strategic activity and training.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Add environmental sustainability to meeting agendas with these partners.</li> <li>- Identify opportunities for collaboration.</li> <li>- Attend network meetings (e.g. Vision 2025 Steering Committee meetings, GMAST – Greater Manchester Sustainability Team)</li> <li>- Invite strategic partners to annual gathering at 101 Outdoor Arts.</li> </ul>	<p>Meeting Notes</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>WW Head of Festival Networks, WW Director, WW Head of Programme, WW Sustainability Advisor</p>



	- Initiate conversations with international colleagues and networks (e.g. Circostrada European Street Arts and Circus Network).			
<b>PLANNING</b>				
(3a) Develop a robust Environmental Policy and Action Plan informed by current data and research that defines ambitions for 2023-26 and sets realistic benchmarks to measure future progress.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prepare 2023-26 Environmental Policy and Action Plan in line with ACE Investment Principles and Outcomes Monitoring Templates.</li> <li>- Identify best practice and stay abreast of current legislation.</li> <li>- Review progress on an on-going basis, monitor and adjust processes as needed.</li> <li>- Research process to develop a Climate Adaptation Strategy for the organisation, referring to existing resources.</li> </ul>	Environmental Policy and Action Plan agreed with targets set	<p>Reviewed by the ERAG in July 2023</p> <p>Policy and Action Plan reviewed annually. Next review date: June 2024.</p>	WW Head of Festival Networks, ERAG
(3b) Demonstrate active leadership and advocacy by continuing to engage with and contribute to the development of wider industry and government policy agenda.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Actively engage in external network meetings (e.g. Vision 2025 industry steering group, GMAST).</li> <li>- Attend relevant sector-facing conferences and events.</li> <li>- Share training opportunities, events and resources produced by other collaborators with partner festivals and artists.</li> <li>- Keep abreast of any wider industry developments and events.</li> </ul>	External representation at sector-facing events and meetings	Ongoing	WW Head of Festival Networks, Director, Head of Programme
(3c) Data & research is translated into practical application in partner festival contexts through the creation and sharing of resources, toolkits & best practice forefronting environmental responsibility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Build evidence base – build environmental monitoring into WW’s ongoing evaluation frameworks.</li> </ul>	Festivals Evaluation Forms, annual reports to monitor progress	Ongoing, review annually	WW Head of Festival Networks
<b>TOOLS AND MONITORING</b>				

<p>(4a) Continue to meet essential reporting requirements, and expand data through encouraging and supporting partner festivals to collect environmental data.</p> <p><b>Targets:</b> Complete annual submission to the Julie's Bicycle Creative Climate Tools dashboard and establish a baseline for 2023-24</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capture data on WW operations (incl. energy usage, travel, water, and waste) year-round and upload annually using the Julie's Bicycle Creative Climate Tools (CC Tools).</li> <li>- Monitor proportion of partners and artists that capture environmental data.</li> <li>- Data and findings shared in the annual evaluation report.</li> </ul>	<p>Data submitted, Festivals and Artists Evaluation Forms</p>	<p>Ongoing, review annually in June.</p>	<p>WW Head of Festival Networks, Operations Team</p>
<p>(4b) Carbon reduction pathway with realistic actions and timescale is established and monitored to achieve a systematic reduction of emissions year on year with residual emissions offset.</p> <p><b>Target:</b> Considered and deliverable carbon reduction strategy with realistic timeline is agreed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Produce annual report / data analysis to study trends, progression, challenges and recommendations (for WW operations).</li> <li>- Prepare carbon reduction strategy for WW operations and timeline informed by research and data.</li> <li>- Research offsetting and in-setting opportunities and benefits for the considerations of the ERAG</li> <li>- Prepare a sustainable financial and procurement policy for the organisation.</li> </ul>		<p>Jul-Aug: Produce annual internal environmental report</p> <p>Oct-Dec: Prepare financial and procurement policy Research offsetting and in-setting opps</p> <p>Jan-Mar: Prepare carbon reduction strategy</p>	<p>WW Head of Festival Networks, Operations Team</p>
<p>(4c) Encourage partner festivals to adopt the Vision 2025 Green Events Code of Practice as a requirement of network membership.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communicate ambition in partners' Terms of Reference and funding agreements.</li> <li>- Monitor proportion of partners that adopt and implement the Green Events Code.</li> </ul>	<p>Partner Festivals TORs, funding agreements and evaluation forms</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>WW Head of Festival Networks and Head of Programme</p>